

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:

a call control node including switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric;

a plurality of connection control nodes each including broadband switching fabric;
and

an intermediate node operatively connectable to said call control node and said plurality of connection control nodes, said intermediate node including a plurality of call processors adapted to interwork for providing interworking between said call control node and said plurality of connection control nodes;

wherein said call control node further includes a load distribution function adapted to distribute for distributing the load amongst said plurality of call processors;
processors;

wherein said load distribution function is further adapted to assign further assigns one of said plurality of call processors to a call;

wherein said assigned call processor is adapted to encode encodes a message sent from said call control node to a selected one of said connection control nodes for the call;

wherein each of said plurality of connection control nodes has a transport link to a linked one of said plurality of call processors;

wherein said assigned call processor is further adapted to pass passes said encoded message to said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node for transmission of said encoded message to said selected connection control node.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of connection control nodes comprise at least part of a broadband network.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein said load distribution function is further adapted to assign further assigns said assigned call processor on a round-robin basis.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein said load distribution function is further adapted to assign further assigns said assigned call processor using load information related to the load on each of said plurality of call processors.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein said assigned call processor is further adapted to decode further decodes a message sent from said selected connection control node to said call control node.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 9~~ claim 1, wherein said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node is further adapted to receive further receives a message from said selected connection control node to said call control node and decode said message.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node is further adapted to

pass further passes said decoded message to said assigned call processor for transmission of said decoded message to said call control node.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 8~~ claim 1, wherein said transport link is a signaling ATM adaptation layer transport link.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said call control node is a legacy switch and said intermediate node is a mediation logic node, said legacy switch and said mediation logic node together forming a media gateway controller.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said plurality of connection control nodes are media gateways within an ATM network.

16-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

providing a call control node including switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric, a plurality of connection control nodes, each including broadband switching fabric, and an intermediate node having a plurality of call processors for interworking between said call control node and said plurality of connection control nodes, and each of said plurality of connection control nodes has a transport link to a linked one of said plurality of call processors; and

distributing the load amongst said plurality of call processors by said call control node- node;

assigning one of said plurality of call processors to a call;

encoding a message sent from said call control node to a selected one of said connection control nodes for the call at said assigned call processor;

passing said encoded message from said assigned call processor to said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node; and
transmitting said encoded message from said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node to said selected connection control node.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim-24~~ claim 20, wherein said step of assigning further comprises the step of:
assigning said assigned call processor on a round-robin basis.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim-24~~ claim 20, wherein said step of assigning further comprises the step of:
assigning said assigned call processor using load information related to the load on each of said plurality of call processors.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim-24~~ claim 20, further comprising the step of:
decoding a message sent from said selected connection control node to said call control node at said assigned call processor.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim-26~~ claim 20, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a message from said selected connection control node to said call control node at said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node; and

decoding said message at said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

passing said decoded message from said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node to said assigned call processor; and

transmitting said decoded message from said assigned call processor to said call control node.

29. (Previously Presented) A method for using a plurality of call processors within an intermediate node for a call being handled by a call control node including switching intelligence and narrowband switching fabric and a selected one of a plurality of connection control nodes including broadband switching fabric, said plurality of call processors for interworking between said call control node and said selected connection control node, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a load distribution function within said call control node for distributing the load amongst said plurality of call processors; and

assigning one of said plurality of call processors to the call using said load distribution function;

encoding a message sent from said call control node to said selected connection control node at said assigned call processor; and

wherein each of said plurality of connection control nodes has a transport link to a linked one of said plurality of call processors, and further comprising the steps of:

passing said encoded message from said assigned call processor to said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node; and

transmitting said encoded message from said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node to said selected connection control node.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of assigning further comprises the step of:

assigning said assigned call processor on a round-robin basis.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of assigning further comprises the step of:

assigning said assigned call processor using load information related to the load on each of said plurality of call processors.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 32~~ claim 31, further comprising the step of:

decoding a message sent from said selected connection control node to said call control node at said assigned call processor.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a message from said selected connection control node to said call control node at said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node; and

decoding said message at said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node.

36. (Original) The method of 35, further comprising the steps of:

passing said decoded message from said linked call processor associated with said selected connection control node to said assigned call processor; and

transmitting said decoded message from said assigned call processor to said call control node.